

**Obituary of our
Sr. Margareta Maria Gamm,
who died 27. 01. 2022
at Missionshaus Neuenbeken**



Sister Margareta Maria - Gisela Gamm - was born on 6th December 1939 in Castrop-Rauxel, Archdiocese of Paderborn. In 1950, after primary school, she attended the grammar school for girls in the city and then in 1956 for a further year the women's college in Bochum. This was followed by two six-month internships in commercial kitchens in the Black Forest and in the Bergmannsheil Clinic in Bochum; that enabled her to obtain the diploma of the vocational college. After another six months of training at the institute for commercial-practical medical assistants in Essen, she worked from October 1958 to April 1960 in the laboratory of the St. Rochus Hospital in Castrop-Rauxel. There they attested her great diligence and interest in all laboratory methods, which she learned quickly and carried out carefully and reliably. As a good stenographer and skillful typist, she was responsible for all written work such as medical reports, expert opinions, etc.

In May 1960, she moved to Bad Waldliesborn near Lippstadt as the first receptionist in a spa and general practice clinic. Here, too, her good skills were confirmed: in dealing with patients, as an assistant during minor surgical procedures, in carrying out a wide variety of work in the laboratory, as well as in issuing invoices and preparing expert reports for the various insurance companies. Particular mention is made of "her good theoretical knowledge, her constant efforts to improve herself, her accuracy and reliability, as well as her strong work discipline". All this throws early light on Sister Margareta Maria as we have come to know and appreciate her.

In November 1964, at the age of 25, she entered our congregation in Neuenbeken. For years she had been trying - as she wrote herself - to find the path she was meant to go and now saw it "following the evangelical counsels in order to collaborate with active love in the kingdom of God". She was clothed on 2nd February 1966 and made her first profession on 2nd February 1968. The following two years brought frequent transfers for her; she worked in the refectory and kitchen in the Missionshaus Neuenbeken, one year in the laboratory of the Joseph Hospital in Paderborn, then in the procure in Neuenbeken, temporarily in the dental practice, and again half a year as economist in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Paderborn.

In February 1970, she returned to Neuenbeken and was assigned to the Provincial Procure. She made her Perpetual Profession in Neuenbeken on 15th August 1971. Sisters who know the Missionshaus in former times may remember under what cramped conditions the Sisters of the Procure, Sr. Maria Irmgard and Sr. Margareta Maria worked. Initially they had only one single room, the present library, in which Sr. Margareta Maria even slept. It was not until the new building was completed in 1980 that she was able to have her own office and a private room.

In addition to her administrative work, Sr. Margareta Maria was actively involved in convent duties like table service and kitchen duty on Sundays and holidays. Endowed with a musical talent, she was an important pillar of the sisters' choir from the beginning, played the organ day after day and delighted us on feast days with her piano playing. We would like to mention that her mother lived in our old people's home and died here, which certainly meant increased responsibility for her; her brother Heiner also died in our infirmary. As the eldest of four siblings, she was always concerned about her youngest brother Hubertus, who needs special care and help.

From 2016 on, Sr. Margareta Maria was only able to work in the office by the hour, and from 2018 onwards, she was largely in need of care and moved to the infirmary. Increasingly weakened, she went home to her eternal home on the night of 27th January in the presence of her biological Sister Elisabeth. We are grateful for her manifold and responsible services in our community.

Words from the letter of St. Peter on 27th January, the day of commemoration of St. Angela Merici, seemed as if they were specially meant for her:

*Be prudent and sober, and pray! Above all, hold fast to the love for one another...
Serve one another as good stewards of God's manifold grace, each with the gift
he has received. Thus in everything God is glorified through Jesus Christ. His is
the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

May she now sing God's praises in the choir of angels and saints, full of joy and peace.

R.i.p.